



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released May 22, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on May 1, 2015. The inventory was 1 percent above May 1, 2014.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.55 million, 5 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.48 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000, 600-699 pounds were 240,000, 700-799 pounds were 348,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 640,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.64 million, 8 percent below 2014. April marketings are the lowest since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 66,000 during April, 20 percent below 2014.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: May 1, 2014 and 2015

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	10,792	10,797	100
Placed on feed during April	1,623	1,548	95
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,778	1,639	92
Other disappearance during April	83	66	80
On feed May 1	10,554	10,640	101

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2014 and 2015

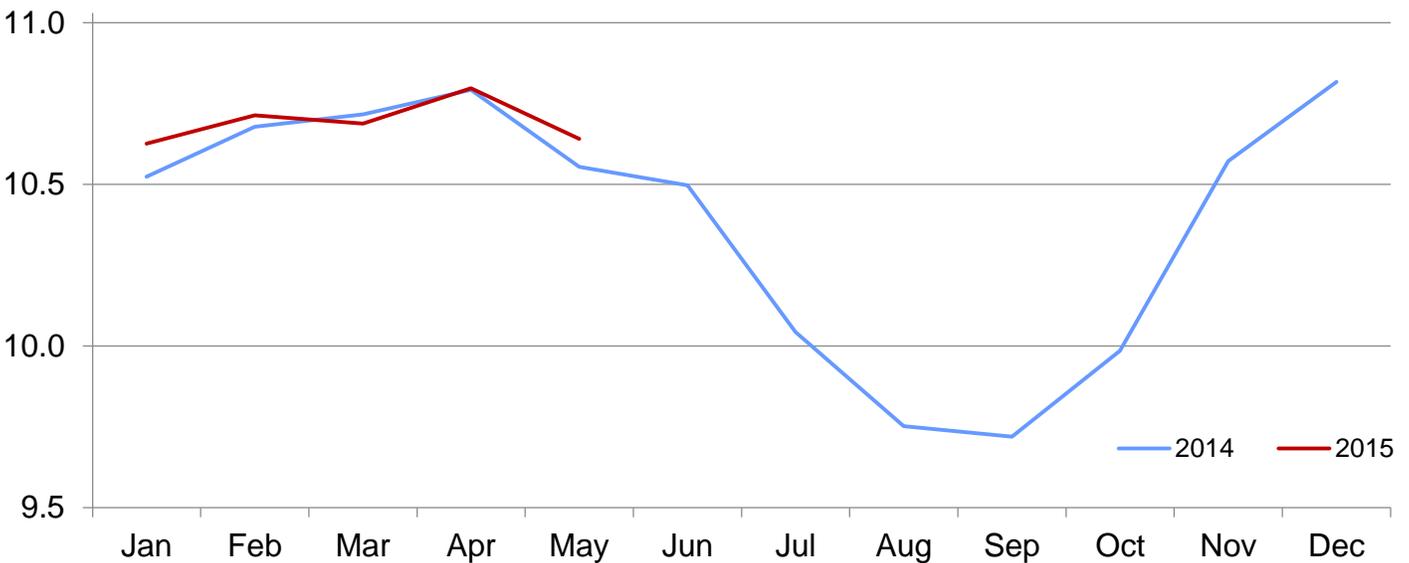
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	10,716	10,688	100
Placed on feed during March	1,801	1,809	100
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,660	1,631	98
Other disappearance during March	65	69	106
On feed April 1	10,792	10,797	100

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	May 1, 2014	April 1, 2015	May 1, 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	277	241	240	87	100
California	450	445	450	100	101
Colorado	940	890	900	96	101
Idaho	205	230	235	115	102
Iowa	660	670	660	100	99
Kansas	2,010	2,110	2,060	102	98
Minnesota	137	146	145	106	99
Nebraska	2,460	2,530	2,500	102	99
Oklahoma	255	285	270	106	95
South Dakota	220	235	240	109	102
Texas	2,430	2,470	2,410	99	98
Washington	190	225	230	121	102
Other States	320	320	300	94	94
United States	10,554	10,797	10,640	101	99

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head

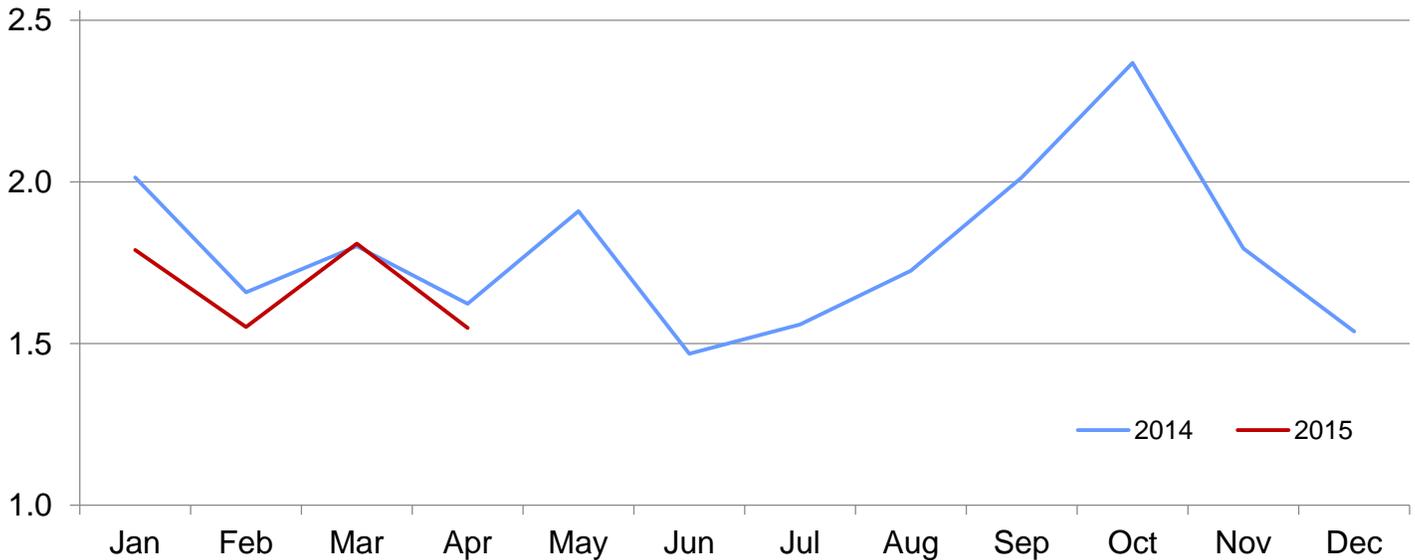


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During April 2014 (1,000 head)	During March 2015 (1,000 head)	During April 2015		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	26	25	24	92	96
California	57	55	49	86	89
Colorado	130	150	145	112	97
Idaho	27	30	30	111	100
Iowa	69	90	63	91	70
Kansas	325	410	315	97	77
Minnesota	16	23	11	69	48
Nebraska	420	440	390	93	89
Oklahoma	43	49	34	79	69
South Dakota	28	33	28	100	85
Texas	420	420	385	92	92
Washington	27	39	42	156	108
Other States	35	45	32	91	71
United States	1,623	1,809	1,548	95	86

Number of Cattle Placed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During April									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	25	25	25	25	35	35	45	60	130	145
Kansas	60	55	50	50	90	80	125	130	325	315
Nebraska	65	50	65	55	95	85	195	200	420	390
Texas	140	105	70	70	110	95	100	115	420	385
Other States	90	85	40	40	63	53	135	135	328	313
United States	380	320	250	240	393	348	600	640	1,623	1,548

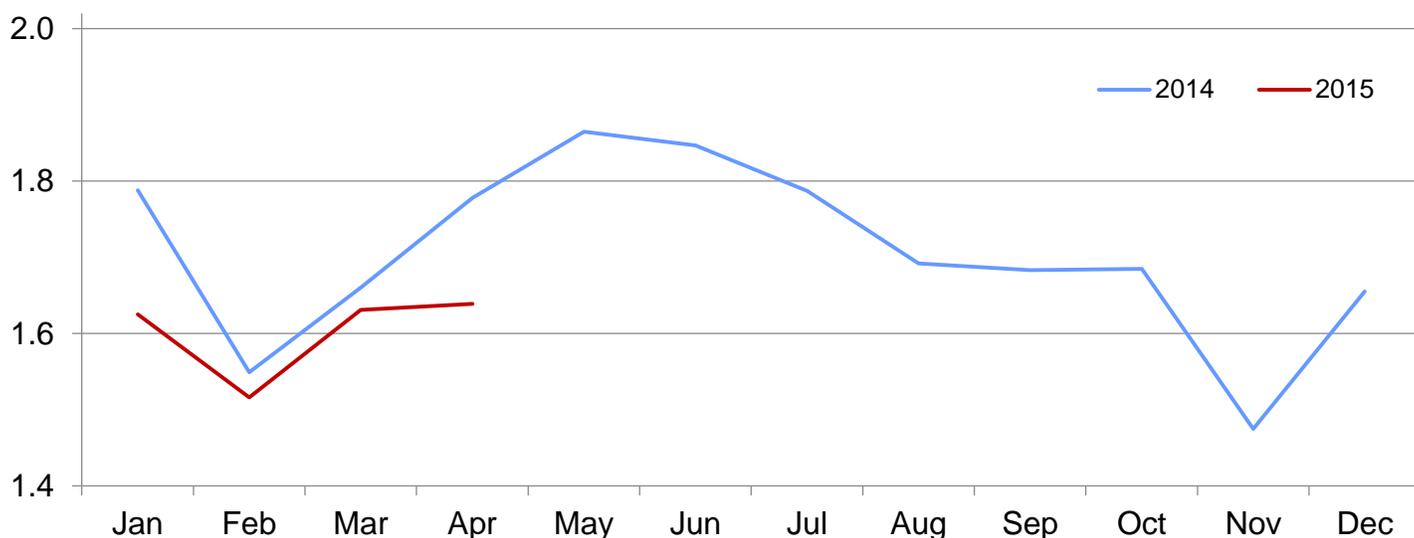
State	During March									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	35	30	30	25	50	40	50	55	165	150
Kansas	65	60	55	65	110	110	160	175	390	410
Nebraska	55	55	65	65	105	100	185	220	410	440
Texas	170	115	90	70	125	120	85	115	470	420
Other States	100	105	50	50	76	79	140	155	366	389
United States	425	365	290	275	466	449	620	720	1,801	1,809

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During April 2014	During March 2015	During April 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	25	21	24	96	114
California	67	46	40	60	87
Colorado	130	140	120	92	86
Idaho	26	29	24	92	83
Iowa	76	79	72	95	91
Kansas	385	370	355	92	96
Minnesota	13	21	11	85	52
Nebraska	415	395	405	98	103
Oklahoma	62	38	48	77	126
South Dakota	30	32	21	70	66
Texas	480	385	435	91	113
Washington	36	28	35	97	125
Other States	33	47	49	148	104
United States	1,778	1,631	1,639	92	100

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During April 2014 (1,000 head)	During March 2015 (1,000 head)	During April 2015		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	6	1	100	17
California	15	4	4	27	100
Colorado	10	10	15	150	150
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	3	1	1	33	100
Kansas	20	10	10	50	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	15	15	100	100
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	3	1	2	67	200
Texas	10	15	10	100	67
Washington	1	1	2	200	200
Other States	2	3	3	150	100
United States	83	69	66	80	96

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Cattle on feed are steers and heifers being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay and/or protein supplement for slaughter market that are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. It excludes cattle being "backgrounded only" for later sale as feeders or later placement in another feedlot.

Placements are steers and heifers put into a feedlot, fed a ration which will produce a carcass that will grade select or better, and are intended for the slaughter market.

Marketings are steers and heifers shipped out of feedlots to a slaughter market.

Other disappearance includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Reliability of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Survey Procedures: During January and July all known feedlots in the United States with capacity of 1,000 or more head are surveyed to provide data for cattle on feed estimates. During the other months, all known feedlots from 16 States are surveyed. The 16 States account for approximately 98 percent of the cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head. Individual State estimates are published monthly for 12 of the 16 States. Data collected from the remaining 4 States are used to establish the "Other States" estimates. These 4 States include Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming. The "Other States" category represents all cattle on feed with a capacity of 1,000 or more head for the rest of the United States.

Estimating Procedures: These cattle on feed estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each State office. Regional and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous month when establishing the current estimates.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve month to month relationships. Estimates for the previous month are subject to revision in all States each month when current estimates are made. In February, all monthly estimates for the previous year, and the number of feedlots and annual marketings from two years ago are reviewed and subject to revisions. The reviews are primarily based on slaughter data, state check-off or brand data, and any other data that may have been received after the original estimate was made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date and estimates become final.

Reliability: Since all 1,000+ capacity cattle on feed operators in every State are not included in the monthly survey, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the table on the following page. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for cattle on feed inventory estimates over the past 24 months is 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.6 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 percent.

The table on the following page shows a 24 month record of the range of differences between first and latest estimates for selected items. Using estimates of number on feed as an example, changes between the first estimate and the latest estimate during the past 24 months have averaged 51,000 head, ranging from 0 to 97,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 18 times and has been below the latest estimate 4 times. This does not imply that the initial estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of Monthly Cattle on Feed Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Number on feed	0.6	1.0	51	0	97	4	18
Placements	1.1	2.0	14	0	55	11	12
Marketings	0.7	1.2	6	0	40	0	7

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Vacant – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-3570

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.